

PARISH ACTION PLAN 2015-2020

PARISH VISION

Our vision is to be a center for Catholic evangelization, faith formation, and ministry in the Diocese of Gary.

- Evangelization: equipping men and women to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ raised from the dead
- Faith Formation: leading lives grounded in Christian values
- Ministry: responding to the needs of the parish, local, national, and global community

PARISH MISSION

Our mission is to experience Christ as the center of our lives through inspiring worship, loving service, excellent faith formation, and generous hospitality.

PARISH VALUES

Our parish will faithfully serve our Lord and the Diocese of Gary using these values:

- Belonging, Connection, and Community
- Care and Compassion
- Celebration and Joy
- Courage
- Engagement
- Enthusiastic Evangelism
- Faithfulness
- Family
- Justice and Love
- Multicultural Appreciation
- Service

OUR EXPECTATIONS OF PARISHIONERS

Recognizing that we are the body of Christ, we expect that as parishioners, we will:

- Pursue knowledge of our faith through ongoing education and formation
- Enthusiastically participate in the sacraments in accordance with the Catechism
- Offer our God-given strengths, talents and charisms in service to our brothers and sisters in Christ
- Share our financial resources generously and sacrificially
- Give witness of our faith joyfully

PARISH GOALS

1. Form disciples, instilling the desire to evangelize (Excellent Faith Formation)
2. Be an activist force for improving peoples' lives (Loving Service)
3. Prepare for the next generation of Catholics (Inspiring Worship)
4. Use our resources to collaborate with and serve communities in Diocese of Gary (Generous Hospitality)

GOAL 1: Form disciples, instilling the desire to evangelize (Excellent Faith Formation)

- Know yourself: Discern parishioner and student strengths, charisms (i.e., gifts of the Holy Spirit given to an individual or group for the good of the whole Church) and vocations in order to help them assume roles in building up the body of Christ
- Know your faith: Teach parishioners to live our faith with the full strength of mind, body, and spirit
- Live your faith: Encourage parishioners to develop a personal relationship with Jesus
- Invite lapsed Catholics, non-Catholics, and the unchurched to share in our faith
- Develop confident, faith-filled leaders in our homes, schools, workplaces, community and parish

GOAL 2: Be an activist force for improving peoples' lives (Loving Service)

- Be known as people who engage in corporal and spiritual works of mercy and change the economic environment so that community members have more opportunities
- Intentionally develop ministries to serve Catholics between the ages of 18-23, the vulnerable time when many leave the Church
- Support the enhancement of current ministries by intentional formation, strategic and succession planning, and communication
- Annually review the breadth and depth of ministries, successes and challenges, gaps and duplications, and make adjustments according to parishioner needs through joint pastoral council and commission meetings
- Create a process for the development, sanction, and retirement of ministries

GOAL 3: Prepare for the next generation of Catholics (Inspiring Worship)

- Ensure that physical space and technology throughout the parish, school and Parish Center meet or exceed the expectations of 21st century Catholics
- Build a Parish Center that provides resources for evangelization, formation, and ministry
- Mentor younger/newer Catholics in their respect for and value of tradition and ritual, such as formation for servers, and ministry formation
- Create effective avenues of communication with other parishes
- Create effective avenues of communication with parishioners through different media: social media, podcasts, YouTube channels, basic computer skills, radio, TV

GOAL 4: Use our resources to collaborate with and serve communities in Diocese of Gary (Generous Hospitality)

- Develop partnerships and collaborations with Catholic, interfaith, and aligned-secular organizations to serve those in need
- Partner with other Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Gary and within our community to identify and respond to needs
- Intentionally consider the use of parish talent, financial resources, and physical space resources to serve the poor and sick in our community, region, and world, through the use of the talent ministry and parish data base

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- Approved 12.2.2014-